

Fleet Management

City of Gadsden
1701 Chestnut Street
Gadsden, Alabama 35901

19 May 2003

To: U.S. Department of Energy

From: J.E. Barker – Fleet Manager

Subject: 4 March Proposed Exemption from EPACT

We DO NOT favor the 4 March proposed exemption for private or local government fleets.

Here in Gadsden, Alabama, unlike some of our larger neighbors, traffic congestion is not a major problem and we have some of the cleanest air in the country. However, we want to do our part in reducing our nation's dependence on foreign oil and keeping our clean air, clean for future generations.

With that goal in mind, we are very interested in using biodiesel B20 to power the City's Diesel fleet. Each year we use approximately 200,000 gallons of diesel fuel conducting the City's business; picking-up garbage and trash, fighting fires, and providing emergency health care.

Because of our clean air in Gadsden, we are not covered by the Clean Air Act and are exempt from EPACT because the population of Etowah County is less than 250,000. Even smaller cities like Gadsden with less than 50,000 residents have fleets of 500 vehicles or larger to conduct the city's business.

By voluntarily using biodiesel B20 we could reduce our #2 Diesel fuel use by 40,000 gallons per year. This seems to us significant worthwhile reduction in consumption by very simple means.

We therefore DO NOT favor the 4 March proposed exemption for private or local government fleets. By placing all fleets with fuel consumption above a specified amount in the same attainment goal category, alternative fuel use would increase. Increases in alternative fuel use would reduce those fuel prices. Reducing the price of biodiesel B20 would have a significant impact on reducing foreign oil consumption in this country.